

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 41 are pending in the present application. Claims 34 and 35 are withdrawn from consideration.

In section 4 of the Office Action, several claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102((e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,570,168 to Schultz et al. (hereinafter "the '168 patent"), and in section 11 of the Office Action, several claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over the '168 patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,438,199 to Schultz et al. (hereinafter "the '199 patent"). Applicants are traversing both of these rejections.

The present application claims priority to U.S. Patent Application No. 09/627,559, which issued as the '168 patent. The present application also claims priority to U.S. Patent Application No. 09/679,718, which issued as the '199 patent. Thus, **the present application claims priority to both of the '168 and '199 patents**. Consequently, neither of the '168 patent nor the '199 patent can be asserted as references against the claims of the present application.

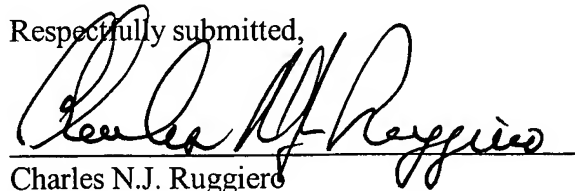
Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in sections 4 and 5 of the Office Action.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and that this application be passed to allowance.

Date

February 23, 2006

Respectfully submitted,



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